



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

been resorted to in France but once, and its abuse at that time has rendered subsequent prime ministers and presidents loath to repeat the process; and yet its employment on certain occasions would seem to have been the one thing needed to bring order out of political chaos.

Special attention is called to France, because few of our writers seem to be intimately acquainted with the workings of cabinet government in the most prominent land of its adoption. But the position and powers of ministers in other countries, both where cabinet government does as well as where it does not prevail, are also treated by M. Dupriez in a most luminous and instructive manner, and no one can err in making a careful study of his very valuable treatise.

CHARLES F. A. CURRIER.

The Discovery of America, with some account of Ancient America and the Spanish Conquest. By JOHN FISKE. 2 vols. Pp. 516 and 631. Price, \$4.00. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1893.

Surely Mr. John Fiske has the pen of a ready writer, yet even he finds the writing of a narrative history of the United States a work requiring many years. Meantime he does not propose to allow his accumulating manuscript to grow musty. From time to time he has given us a finished chapter as an earnest of the coming series. The initial volumes make their timely appearance in the year filled with Columbian reminiscence.

The book has two themes, different in character, and yet each indispensable to a clear understanding of the other. The first and subsidiary theme is the study of ancient America. Here Mr. Fiske supplements the skill and accuracy of the historian with the training and enthusiasm of the anthropologist. The perplexity which the early European explorers felt when first brought into contact with the American aborigines—a perplexity shared by our earlier historians—disappears only when comparative anthropology makes possible the placing of the primitive American peoples in their proper stage in the evolution of human society. In Europe the development had been comparatively steady and continuous; there had been no startling “breaks.” But when Columbus set foot upon America he stood face to face with man of the stone age, with man in a grade of culture which in Europe had passed away before the founding of Rome.

The value of Mr. Fiske’s graphic yet painstaking delineation of ancient America is clearly seen in the later chapters, which treat of the Spanish conquests of Mexico and Peru. The Spaniards, perplexed by the strange contrasts between themselves and the peoples with whom they were struggling, could not help reading into primitive institutions the spirit and character of the institutions with which

the Europe of the sixteenth century was familiar. The work of the earlier historians, who accepted as authentic these Spanish observations, now comes up for an interesting overhauling and reconstruction at the hands of the anthropologist-historian. Montezuma, who used to figure as a mighty potentate, the head of a great feudalized "empire," is now seen to be a priest-commander of the type of the primitive Greek *basileus*. His vast "empire" becomes a loose confederacy, under the rule of the typical Tribal Council, with which Sir Henry Maine has made us familiar. The roseate hues in which the earlier historians painted the civilizations of Mexico and Peru fade somewhat in the light of recent research. "In America," says Dr. Draper, "Spain destroyed races more civilized than herself;" and he did not hesitate to assert: "At the time of the conquest the moral man in Peru was superior to the European, and I will add the intellectual man also." Mr. Fiske, on the other hand, insists that "if we are to use language at all correctly when we speak of the 'civilizations' of Mexico and Peru, we really mean civilizations of an extremely archaic type, considerably more archaic than that of Egypt in the time of the Pharaohs." "A 'civilization' like that of the Aztecs, without domestic animals or iron tools, with trade still in the primitive stage of barter, with human sacrifices and with cannibalism, has certainly some of the most vivid features of barbarism." The cavalier thesis has recently been put forward that the discovery of the new coasts by Columbus was an unspeakable misfortune because it led to the introduction of the horrors of the inquisition into the Spanish conquests. Mr. Fiske maintains, on the contrary, that the coming of the Spaniards was a great good, even for Mexico, where they introduced a far better state of society than they found.

But the study of ancient America and of the Spanish conquests is not allowed to obscure the principal theme, the Discovery of America. All possible emphasis is laid upon one fact: the discovery of America was not one single event, it was rather a long and painful process extending through two and one-half centuries. Mr. Fiske seeks not merely to tell the familiar story of one or two eventful voyages, but rather to portray the gradual unfolding of a new world before the consciousness of Europe. Of the pre-Columbian expeditions that of the Northmen is the most interesting. Mr. Fiske reaches the conclusion that the Saga of Eric the Red should be accepted as history, since it tells a straightforward story bearing the earmarks of a truthful record of events which show a knowledge of things which could have become known to mediæval Europe only as a result of actual visits to the North American coast south of Labrador. But that Leif's colony flourished for several centuries and carried on a thriving trade with

Europe, that its memory was clearly perpetuated in Ireland, and that there Columbus obtained the information which led him to undertake his voyage—all this theory of modern enthusiasts who put forward the claim of the Northmen as the true “discoverers” of America Mr. Fiske considers utterly groundless. Not an authentic relic of the Northmen has ever been discovered south of Labrador. “Except for Greenland, which was supposed to be a part of the European world, America remained as much undiscovered after the eleventh century as before it. In the mid-summer of 1492 it needed to be discovered as much as if Leif Ericsson or the whole race of Northmen had never existed.”

The great work of Columbus and of the voyagers who followed him remains the central feature of the book, and is brought into clearer relief by reason of the carefully prepared background. The training of Columbus for his career, the many discouragements, the difficulties and dangers of the voyages are all skillfully placed before the reader. It is here that this history comes most sharply into comparison with the other great book of the Columbian anniversary, Mr. Winsor's “Christopher Columbus.” Both historians have used substantially the same sources, both have told the story of how the great navigator “received and imparted the spirit of discovery;” on most points they are in practical agreement. But the impressions of the character of Columbus which these two scholars have gained from a study of the same facts, differ most widely. Mr. Winsor has been painstaking in his enumeration of facts, everything that can throw light upon the character of Columbus is recorded and its value weighed. We are shown a defect here, a virtue there, and are led up to the conclusion that on the whole the defects far outweigh the virtues. And yet we feel that nowhere have we seen the man Columbus himself. To research hardly less painstaking, Mr. Fiske has added *insight*. The defects in the great discoverer's character are by no means glossed over, neither are they forced into prominence by being isolated. Mr. Fiske brings to his characterization the skill of a psychologist. He understands men, and men of different characters. He makes us see in Columbus, in Magellan and in Las Casas men of individuality, not mere bundles of virtues and defects. He realizes that it was a “complex tangle of notions that actuated the mediæval Spaniard.” Back into the very midst of that tangle he puts the reader and lets him watch Columbus in the thick of the fight.

Under the title “Mundus Novus,” Mr. Fiske presents in graphic outline the series of voyages of Cabot, Vesputius, Magellan and the other great explorers, which proved that a new world had indeed been discovered. The 150 pages devoted to Vesputius comprise some of the

author's most critical work. Indeed, the particularity with which the subject is treated may seem better suited to a monograph than to a chapter in so general a discussion. Mr. Fiske justifies his course, however, by urging that through this long analytical discussion of the way in which the name America came to be applied to the whole western continent, better than by any mere narrative, are we made to realize how gradual a growth the discovery of America proved.

The beautiful character of Las Casas arouses the historian to unwonted enthusiasm. He passionately defends his hero from the charge of having founded negro slavery in the new world, even asserting that in Las Casas we may see "the mightiest and most effective antagonist of human slavery in all its forms that has ever lived." Few chapters in history are more thrilling than that which describes how the terrible "Land of War" was civilized and Christianized through the consecrated efforts of this white-souled monk. "The memory of such a life," says Mr. Fiske, "must be cherished by mankind as one of its most precious and sacred possessions."

It goes without saying that a book of this nature from the pen of Mr. Fiske bears evidence of abundant research. Materials have been used at first hand. If the reader is disposed to test the author's accuracy of statement or validity of inference, ample opportunity is afforded by the full citations of authorities in the foot-notes. But many of the foot-notes have not been reserved for this dignified use; they show a flippancy, a resort to ridicule and sarcasm which seem strangely out of place in so scholarly a work. Of course this book is written in Mr. Fiske's captivating style; some passages are nobly eloquent. The book is carefully indexed, and the student is grateful for an excellent topical analysis. One of its greatest services consists in its freeing the reader "from the bondage to the modern map." At each stage in the narrative is shown the contemporary map or globe. Maps like those of Ptolemy and Toscanelli not merely recorded the discoveries, they inspired them. The evolution of the modern map, as traced in these reproductions of ancient charts, illustrates most graphically the slowness with which there dawned upon Europe the knowledge of the American continent. GEORGE H. HAYNES.

Industrial Arbitration and Conciliation. Some chapters from the industrial history of the past thirty years. Compiled by JOSEPHINE SHAW LOWELL. Pp. 110. Price, 40 cents. Questions of the Day Series. New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1893.

Any work bearing Mrs. Lowell's name is sure to be filled with the spirit of reform. Her standpoint in respect to the labor question is